

# **THE JACOBS REPORT**

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**Assistant Democratic Floor Leader**  
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**For Immediate Release**  
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## **CONSENSUS REVENUE ESTIMATING CONFERENCE MEETS**

### **Revenues Up, but Fiscal Year 2006 in Red**

The Consensus Revenue Estimating Conference met this week and agreed on revised State revenue estimates for FY 2005-06 and also agreed on the initial consensus revenue estimate for FY 2006-07.

Fiscal Year 2004-05 closed with a \$220.5 million balance. Based on current statutory and appropriation requirements, this entire year-end balance is carried forward into FY 2005-06. Final FY 2004-05 GF/GP revenues totaled \$8.91 billion. This revenue number included \$8.8 billion of ongoing revenue and \$111.0 million of non-ongoing revenue. The final level of ongoing revenue exceeded the August 2005 consensus revenue estimate by \$256.0 million. The combination of approximately \$90.0 million of non-ongoing revenue payments in the estate tax and use tax and a stronger-than-expected level of revenue collections during the last three months of the fiscal year lead to this revenue increase.

The Conference expects State revenues to go up slightly for fiscal 2006-07, but not at a rate that will keep up with increased spending. The outlook gives no relief to the Granholm Administration as it works on the new budget.

Given the Medicaid and Corrections spending pressures that the 2006-07 budget already faces, it is potentially "hundreds of millions dollars" short, said State Budget Director Mary Lannoye.

The Administration will present its budget to the Legislature on February 9.

## **DEQ PROMOTES LOW IMPACT DEVELOPMENT**

### **SMART GROWTH FOR MICHIGAN**

Land development in many Michigan communities is creating water quality problems in our lakes and streams, with recent studies showing that watersheds in rapidly developing areas including Detroit, Grand Rapids, Kalamazoo, Lansing, and Traverse City, are most at risk.

Development generally causes increased storm water runoff, which occurs when precipitation from rain or snowmelt flows over the ground. Impervious surfaces like parking lots, driveways, streets, and sidewalks prevent storm water from naturally soaking into the ground. Storm water can pick up debris, chemicals, dirt, and other pollutants and flow into a storm sewer system or directly into a lake, stream, wetland, or coastal water.

The good news is that communities can take steps to lessen the impact of new development by encouraging low impact development (LID). LID practices are built upon the premise that storm water can be controlled close to the source to keep pollutants out of the storm water stream. This is accomplished by protecting native vegetation, reducing the amount of hard surfaces and compaction of soil, treating storm water runoff close to where it starts, and slowing the flow of storm water runoff so that it is closer to conditions found prior to the site being developed.

Common LID practices include: rain gardens; rooftop gardens (green roofs); sidewalk storage; vegetated swales, buffers, and strips; tree preservation; roof leader disconnection; rain barrels and cisterns; permeable pavers; soil amendments; impervious surface reduction and disconnection; pollution prevention; and good housekeeping.

Some communities are receiving grant funding to implement LID practices. In west Michigan alone, grant projects include a green roof installed at the city of Battle Creek Police Station, and approximately 20 rain gardens that have been or will be installed in the west Michigan area within the next two years. These projects and others like them result from a combination of grant moneys from the Department of Environmental Quality, and local match from the surrounding communities.

DEQ, along with the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments, is also pursuing grant funding to provide local land-use decision makers with the tools necessary to implement LID in Michigan. This would be achieved by developing a LID manual and brochures, and then using them to facilitate implementation through networking and workshops. This work has the potential to come to fruition within the next year.

Other communities are adopting LID strategies on their own with technical assistance from the DEQ. Communities in urbanized areas are committing to actions that will lessen the likelihood of contaminated storm water runoff and that encourage new development to utilize LID.

Private citizens are even able to do their part by directing runoff from their gutters to rain barrels or rain gardens as opposed to directing it to a storm sewer.

Low impact development can certainly go a long way towards protecting the integrity of Michigan's lakes and streams and improve the aesthetics of the local community. For anyone interested in LID and what all of us can do, contact a local DEQ office, or visit the DEQ Web site at <http://www.michigan.gov/deq>.

## **DEPARTMENT TO HOST STATEWIDE LONG TERM CARE CONFERENCE**

The Michigan Department of Community Health Office of Long Term Care Supports and Services will host a statewide long term care conference March 23 and 24 in Troy.

The conference is expected to draw more than 500 long term care providers, advocates and consumers to the Troy Hilton Hotel and Conference Center.

The conference objectives are:

- Promote awareness of Michigan's implementation plans for the Medicaid Long Term Care Task Force Report.
- Develop a shared understanding of long term care economic challenges and opportunities.
- Provide information on national perspectives on long term care reform.
- Provide information on promising practices in long term care from national and state initiative, including Michigan's Real Choice Systems Change Grants.

Registration information will soon be available on the Department website:

<http://www.michigan.gov/mdch>

To obtain hotel reservations on-line, please use [www.detroitroyal.hilton.com](http://www.detroitroyal.hilton.com) and the group code MCM.

Organizers are involving professional and advocacy groups with a primary focus on long-term care in being partners with the Department of Community Health. Information for others interested in being vendors or sponsors will be made available soon.

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All Michigan legislation can be tracked at <http://www.legislature.michigan.gov/>.

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State Senator Gilda Jacobs represents the 14<sup>th</sup> Senate District, which includes Beverly Hills, Bingham Farms, Farmington, Farmington Hills, Ferndale, Franklin, Hazel Park, Huntington Woods, Lathrup Village, Oak Park, Pleasant Ridge, Royal Oak Township, Southfield, and Southfield Township. She is the Minority Vice Chair of the Families & Human Services Committee and the Economic Development, Small Business & Regulatory Reform Committee. She also serves on the Government Operations and Health Policy Committees.

**Constituents of the 14<sup>th</sup> District may contact Senator Jacobs at [sengjacobs@senate.michigan.gov](mailto:sengjacobs@senate.michigan.gov) or toll-free at 1-888-937-4453.**

This newsletter is produced in single-space form in order to save paper and transmission costs.

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